

Application No. 09/414,483
Amendment dated December 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at lines 12 - 19 of page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, a building component, which is indicated generally by reference numeral 10, comprises a rectangular frame assembled from vertical and horizontal lengths of lumber and, more particularly, the frame is formed by horizontal top and bottom rails 12 and 14, by opposite vertical side members 16 and by vertical studs 18 spaced apart from one another, in a conventional manner, between the side members 16 and extending between the top and bottom rails 12 and 14. These lengths of lumber are connected to one another, in a conventional manner, by nails (not shown), and in addition metal corner connectors or reinforcements 20 are provided at the four corners of the frame, interposed between and interconnecting the top and bottom rails 12 and 14 and the side members 16.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 and the first two complete paragraphs of page 5 by the following amended paragraphs:-

One of the corner reinforcements 20 is shown in greater detail in Figure 1B and comprises a box-shaped section 30 having ~~four sides 32, 33, 34 and 35~~ a horizontal top wall 32, vertical side walls 33 and 35 and a horizontal bottom wall 34; laterally extending flange 36 and 37 projecting horizontally from the sides vertical side walls 33 and 35 and a vertically extending flange 38 projecting upwardly from the side 32, i.e. the top, horizontal top wall 32 of the box-shaped section 30. More particularly, the flanges 36 and 38 extend from the mid-sections of the sides 33 and 32, which as can be seen from Figure 1A are dimensioned so that the flanges 36 and 37 fit snugly on top

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of the rails 14 of an adjacent pair of the frames of Figure 1, while the vertical flange 38 fits between the vertical sides and in face-to-face contact, laterally thereof, with the vertical side members 16 of these two frames. The flanges 36, 37 and 38 are secured to the frames by nails or staples (not shown), with the ends of the lumber in abutment with the box-shaped section 30 a pair of vertical lengths of lumber, i.e. the side members 16, in abutment, longitudinally thereof, with the horizontal top wall 32, and in face-to-face contact, laterally thereof, with the vertical flange 38, and with the horizontal lengths of lumber, i.e. the rails 14, in abutment longitudinally thereof with respective ones of the side walls 33 and 35, as illustrated in Figure 1A.

The modified corner connector shown in Figure 1C and indicated generally by reference numeral 20a has a box-shaped section 30a with lateral horizontal and vertical flanges 37a and 38a, but in this case the flanges 37a and 38a are located in alignment with sides 34a and 35a at the bottom wall and one side wall of the box-shaped section 30a. This corner connector 20a is intended for connection to the lumber of only one of the frames, so as to not project from the frame. If required, the corner connector 20a of Figure 1C can be further modified by the addition of a vertical flange 40 (Figure 4) extending along one or both longitudinal sides of the lateral flange ~~36a~~ 37a and secured to the rail 14 by nails or staples (not shown).

In the making of the building component 10, the lengths of lumber are firstly connected to one another by nailing and by the corner reinforcements attaching them to the metal corner connectors in the manner described above in order to form the frame, and the heat insulating foam material 22 is then injected into the frame so as to form the heat insulating barrier 24.